

**BOWEN FAMILY PAPERS**  
**1894-1951**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Bowen Family Papers, 1894-1951, consist of material pertaining to Albert Crossland Bowen (1866-1951) and his spouse, Jean (Johnnie) Sanders Bowen (1867-1926) who served as missionaries to China for the Methodist-Episcopal Church, South. The material was donated to the Tennessee State Library and Archives by the Bowen's daughter, Frances Jean Durrett of Nashville, Tennessee.

The collection occupies 2.5 cubic feet of shelf space and numbers approximately 2,000 items. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Bowen Family Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Bowen Family Papers, containing approximately 2,000 items, consists of a variety of records pertaining to Albert Crossland Bowen (1866-1951) and Jean (Johnnie) Sanders Bowen (1867-1926). The papers include a contract acceptance, an account book, an advertisement, announcements, a valedictory address, a book review, a burial policy, cards, correspondence, a journal, military records, minutes, newspaper clippings, a notebook, notices, a photograph, poetry, printed material, a report, a sermon, a speech, and a testimonial.

The majority of the collection was generated while Albert and Johnnie Bowen served as missionaries to China for the Methodist-Episcopal Church, South from approximately 1900-1925. The remainder of the collection consists of documents pertaining to Albert C. Bowen, especially after the death of Johnnie Bowen in 1925.

The bulk of the collection consists of correspondence that is personal in nature. During their tenure in China, the Bowens exchanged numerous letters with family and friends in Tennessee and South Carolina. After Johnnie Bowen's death, and upon his return to America, Albert C. Bowen continued to correspond frequently with family members across the United States. In particular, Johnnie Bowen kept in close contact with her mother, Fannie Sanders Edwards, and her step-sister, Coline Edwards Smith.

Several of the letters in the papers regard a book, entitled The Supreme Reality, that Albert C. Bowen had published in 1949. Apparently, Bowen, a Methodist-Episcopal minister, sent copies of the book to several important political and social figures, including Eleanor Roosevelt and Dean Acheson, etc.

One very interesting part of the collection is a scrapbook compiled by Frances Bowen that contains information on the life of her mother, Johnnie Bowen. It includes photographs, letters, and memorabilia pertaining to Johnnie Bowen's education at Clifford Seminary and Williamston Female College in Union, South Carolina, as well as other information on members of the Bowen and Sanders/Edwards families. The scrapbook contains a large number of love letters from Albert to Johnnie Sanders, along with other correspondence, that could not be easily removed from the scrapbook.

## CONTAINER LIST

### **Box Number 1**

1. Acceptance? Parthenon Press, 1949
2. Account Book? Bowen, Albert C., 1905
3. Advertisement? Hotel Henry Waterson, n.d.
4. Announcements—Miscellaneous
5. Address? Valedictory? Simmons, Gene, 1947
6. Book Review? The Supreme Reality, 1949
7. Burial Policy? Bowen, Albert C.
8. Cards—Greeting
9. Correspondence? Allen-Austin
10. Correspondence? Bond-Burke
11. Correspondence? Bowen, Albert C.
12. Correspondence? Bowen, Frances
13. Correspondence? Bowen, Jean (Johnnie) to Coline Edwards Smith

### **Box Number 2**

1. Correspondence? Bowen, Jean (Johnnie) to Coline Edwards Smith
2. Correspondence? Bowen, Jean (Johnnie) to Fannie C. Edwards
3. Correspondence? Bowen, Jean (Johnnie)
4. Correspondence? Cannon-Cowley
5. Correspondence? Dowling-Drake
6. Correspondence? Edwards-Estes

### **Box Number 3**

1. Correspondence? Farog-Fleming
2. Correspondence? Gaither-Gregory
3. Correspondence? Haines-Humphries
4. Correspondence? Jenson-Jones
5. Correspondence? Kerns-Kyrou
6. Correspondence? Langford-Luck
7. Correspondence? Malik-Munoz
8. Correspondence? Orrick
9. Correspondence? Park-Poole
10. Correspondence? Rankin-Roosevelt
11. Correspondence? Roberts, Rev. Tom K. to Albert C. Bowen
12. Correspondence? Sarper-Sunde
13. Correspondence? Theodoropoulos-Turnispeed
14. Correspondence? Upperman
15. Correspondence? Viteri

#### **Box Number 4**

1. Correspondence? Wightman-Woo
2. Correspondence? Yarbrough
3. Correspondence? Unidentified
4. Journal? Bowen, Jean (Johnnie), 1894
5. Military Records? Troop Roster? 3rd Battalion, Co. A., 1864
6. Minutes? East China Conference, 1948
7. Newspaper Clippings, 1900-1951
8. Notebook? Bowen, Albert C.
9. Notice? Funeral? Edwards, Fannie C., 1917
10. Notice? Incomplete Course? Bowen, Frances Jean, 1945
11. Photographs, drawings, etc.? China Jubilee Conference, Oct. 15, 1898
12. Poetry
13. Printed Materials? Course Listings? Columbia University, 1927
14. Printed Materials? Publication? "Belmont Methodist Bulletin," Aug. 20, 1950
15. Printed Materials? Publication? "Christian Advocate," July 9, 1926
16. Printed Materials? Publication? "The International Beacon," Oct. 1948
17. Printed Materials? Publication? "The Lander Messenger," Jan. 1926
18. Printed Materials? Publications? Religious
19. Printed Materials? Statement? "The Statement of Attitude of the Missionaries Concerning the Present Situation in China"
20. Report? Layman's Conference, South Eastern Jurisdiction, Lake Junalaska, North Carolina, 1950
21. Sermon? "The Service of Jesus"
22. Speeches, addresses, etc.-Bowen, Albert C., 1942
23. Testimonials

#### **Box Number 6**

1. Scrapbook